

## **FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISISON AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** October 9, 2014

**Agenda Item:** Shed's Bridge FAS - Closure

**Division:** Fisheries

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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### **Background**

The Sheds Bridge FAS is located in Gallatin County, along the Gallatin River, seven miles west of Bozeman on Montana Highway 84. Over the course of the past two years, the river bank at this site has experienced severe erosion leaving a steep slope and near vertical 14-foot terrace. The terrace extends along the river's edge onto private property from about 100 feet above the FAS to a point 150 feet below the site. Routine inspections find the river bank to be unstable and any attempt to restore or stabilize it for safe public use may have detrimental impacts to the private landowners above and below the FAS. FWP will need to conduct a feasibility analysis to determine what can be done to stabilize the stream bank in both the short and long term. Any stream bank restoration plan will need to include potential impacts on neighboring properties. The dangers that this site presents to the public were brought to light when the steep river bank wall collapsed under a small child visiting the site with his parents. Fortunately the father was able to grab the child before he fell into the river.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

An environmental assessment will be prepared to allow for public comment prior to any final action by the Fish & Wildlife Commisison. A Decision Notice will provide a recommendation to the Commisison for final action.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

Not closing the site results in creating a public hazard as the river continues to undermine the river bank. Working with the adjacent landowners over the course of the next year will provide direction for any future actions.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends that the Sheds Bridge FAS be closed until an action plan for area can be implemented to ensure public safety.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Commission propose closing of Sheds Bridge FAS until an action plan for area can be developed.